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Nataly battles illness, awaits kidney

Resident on list for 3 years

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

For three years, Fritz Nataly has been praying for a kidney.

Nataly suffers from anyloidosis, a condition which produces aberrant protein inside the body. That protein surrounds and clogs organs. Nataly was diagnosed in 1987 after a blood test showed some abnormalities.

"It's a starchy substance that goes around the organs and causes them to malfunction," said Nataly.

Nataly now travels to Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton three times a week for dialysis. While the dialysis helps to clean out his blood, it is not a permanent solution. Nataly has been on the national waiting list for a kidney since 2000.

He may have to wait longer. He has O Positive blood, which is common, but he has to wait for a kidney donor with the same blood.

According to the New England Organ Bank, the median wait-time for a kidney is more than four years. That means half of the people on the list will receive a kidney in four or so years. Nataly said he was told to wait up to five years.

There is one way to get a kidney faster: Any donor can ask that his or her organs be given to a specific individual. If the blood and tissue match, then the intended recipient is given that organ regardless of his or her place on the list.

"You can give someone's name if you know they're on the list," said Nataly. "There are people out there and they are looking for a donor."

Nataly said he has done a lot of soul-searching about asking for a kidney. He decided it is not immoral to ask people for help.

"There is a black market out there for organs and I know that's wrong. That it's immoral," said Nataly. "What isn't wrong is for people to say 'I need a kidney' and let that be known through word of mouth, or the newspaper or an ad."

New England Organ Bank spokesman Sean Fitzpatrick said the number of people donating organs has gone up, but healthier living and safer choices have made the actual pool of donations go down.

"We are slowly increasing donorship in real terms, but as a percentage of potential donors the numbers continue to drop every year," said Fitzpatrick.

Fortunately, new medications are reducing the levels of organ rejection, making the procedure safer and more successful, said Fitzpatrick.

"About 91 percent of people who have had kidney transplants are alive after three years," said Fitzpatrick.

What's important for a new donor is to tell family members about their decision, because it is the family who will give permission to doctors to harvest the organs. Anyone can be a donor by filling out a donor card, which can be picked up at the Registry of Motor Vehicles or directly through the New England Organ Bank.

For now, Nataly continues to work as a social worker at Epoch Health Care in Weston, albeit on a reduced schedule.

"I know I can legally be declared disabled; I appreciate the chance to continue working," said Nataly. "It's brought me a lot closer with the patients at work. I can empathize with them and what they're going through."

Nataly credits his wife, Marcie, and his faith with keeping him going the last few years. Marcie and Fritz met through a newspaper ad two years ago. The couple married last year.

■ SEE NATALY, PAGE 15



STAFF PHOTO BY HOLLY SCHMIDT

Fritz Nataly with his wife, Marcie. Nataly, who suffers from anyloidosis, has been awaiting a kidney for three years.

Fields bid lower than expected

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The Planning Department unsealed the bids for the Reed's Brook project on July 24 and the lowest bid came below the \$2.4 million advertised price tag.

RAD Construction of Hanover was the winning bidder at \$2.187 million, according to Kevin O'Brien, the town's director of Planning and Community Development.

"We're contacting the contractor to discuss schedules," said O'Brien.

The highest bid of \$3.14

million came from Albanese D & S of Dracut. O'Brien said gathering a range of bids that wide is not unusual, though he prefers closer bids.

"It's fairly normal, but it's not desirable. You generally want bids close to each other, which shows the bid price is pretty good," said O'Brien.

A total of eight bids were offered to the town for the second phase of the project, which will include adding soil and sculpting the ball field and other features of the park — to be named McClennen Fields after recently-retired Director of Planning and

■ SEE REED'S BROOK, PAGE 15

Lexingtonians bark about possible park

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Issues surrounding a dog park at McClennen Fields remain cloudy.

Planning and Community Development Director Kevin O'Brien said the department will contact three residents in Lexington, who signed a letter opposing the dog park. That letter was sent to the Department of Environmental Protection as part of the approval process for the park's plans.

Michael and Susan Lelyveld and William Toth, all from Lexington, are original appellants to the Reed's Brook project. They earned the right to appeal decisions through negotiation during the initial hearing phase of the project.

At the time, the Arlington and Lexington Conservation commissions were reviewing the work plans. As part of the appeal agreement, Toth and the Lelyvelds are given updates and notices of change in plans at Reed's Brook.

The dog park was not

brought to their attention until Toth saw the issue discussed during Arlington's Town Meeting, he said. According to Toth, the addition of the dog park does not fit well with the rest of the project.

Parking is a major concern even without the dog park, said Toth. If people can't park in the lot, they'll pull onto the private ways around the fields.

"It seems unlikely that the 60 or so parking spots planned would be adequate for all the people coming and going," said Toth. "To add in this use where people are going to be bussing in or somehow hauling animals... to defecate. If they have trouble finding a place to park, is the animal going to wait?"

Toth also said the lack of supervision and enforcement of rules at the dog park was a concern. Without stepped up enforcement from police, who would prevent owners from allowing their dogs off-leash outside of the fenced area?

■ SEE PARK, PAGE 15

Morning fire closes Punjab restaurant

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

An Arlington Center eatery has been temporarily closed for repairs after a Sunday morning blaze.

Indian restaurant Punjab, 473 Massachusetts Ave., was the site of the 11 a.m. fire that could have been worse, according to fire officials.

"Had this fire occurred in the evening after business hours, there was the potential for the fire to spread rapidly within the ceiling area and then travel over and up into the walls of the second and third floors where residents would have been asleep," said Deputy Chief Wayne Springer.

The department's Fire Investigation Unit is investigating, but preliminary reports indicate sparks from a charcoal-burning oven may have traveled up into the exhaust

'Had this fire occurred in the evening after business hours, there was the potential for the fire to spread rapidly.'

DEPUTY CHIEF WAYNE SPRINGER

duct and ignited accumulations of grease. Duct cleaning records and building inspection reports are being checked to determine if there are any contributing factors to the spread of the fire, said Springer.

"Good housekeeping is the single most important element in fire prevention and it requires the least amount of effort and expense," said Springer.

When firefighters arrived at the

scene Sunday morning, they found smoke and fire coming from the kitchen exhaust duct on the roof. Ladder 1's crew used an aerial ladder to get to the roof and see if the fire had spread, added Springer.

Meanwhile, Engine 4's firefighters advanced an attack line into the kitchen where there was smoke. Fire had traveled horizontally and vertically through the metal exhaust ductwork, said Springer.

"Because the fire ignited in the ductwork above the kitchen extinguishing system the only way this fire was going to be extinguished was by the firefighters with hose lines and overhaul tools," he said.

Firefighters from Rescue 1 and Engine 2 also rushed to the second and third floors of the building to evacuate five residents and Engine 3 advanced an attack line into the basement.

■ SEE FIRE, PAGE 15

Teen-ager eyed in graffiti case

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

The quick thinking of an Arlington police officer thwarted a series of car break-ins and fingered a possible suspect in the racist/anti-Semitic/anti-police graffiti incidents of last month.

Officer Douglas Cronin was driving on Summer Street around 3 a.m. last Friday when he spotted three young men standing near a rental van on Grove Street, according to police.

Cronin approached one of them and the 15-year-old allegedly became unruly. The officer placed him into protective custody and found the teen was in possession of a flashlight, a pocket knife and two cellular phone chargers. The boy

■ SEE SUSPECT, PAGE 15

INSIDE

Beware of the coyote

A coyote has been spotted in the Thorndike Field area. Police warn residents to watch out for their cats and small dogs.

Page 3

Index

Arts	13
Comment	12-14
Obituaries	24
Religion	26
Seniors	27
Sports	17



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FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

Tuesday, July 29

• At 9:39 a.m., a Marathon Street resident reported a car break-in. She said two cameras, a camera lens, laptop computer and eye glasses were taken from the vehicle.

Wednesday, July 30

• At 1:30 p.m., police responded to a Massachusetts Avenue business regarding a larceny. The officer manager said \$70 was taken from petty cash. There was no forced entry.

• At 3:16 p.m., a Johnson Road man told police he received annoying phone calls from youths. The man said several youths were imitating an Asian person's voice and uttered profanities. The calls were allegedly coming from a Watertown residence. While Officer Julie Brydes was at the scene, the phone rang again and the officer identified herself to the youths and told them to stop calling. They hung up quickly.

• At 3:32 p.m., police received a call concerning a dog bite at Menotomy Rocks Park. A parent was walking with her daughter and two other children when an unleashed dog, possibly a border collie, reportedly jumped on them and bit the youngsters. The dog's owner allegedly grabbed the dog's leash and left the area. The youths suffered scratches and bite wounds and received rabies shots. Police do not know the dog owner's identity.

• At 6:22 p.m., a Fremont Court resident reported annoying phone calls.

• At 8:36 p.m., a Beverly

Tuesday, July 29

• At 10:45 p.m., police arrested Jose E. Raymondo, 32, 186 Gardner St., Apt. 2-5, and charged him with assault and battery. Officer Jennifer McGurl made the arrest.

Wednesday, July 30

• At 6:17 p.m., police arrested a 14-year-old boy for the unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Officer Brandon Kindle was told the juvenile was using a family member's vehicle. Officers stopped the vehicle at Brattle and Dudley streets. Kindle made the arrest.

Thursday, July 31

• At 12:08 p.m., police arrested Justin S. Fustolo, 28, 114 Pleasant St., Apt. 303, and charged him with two counts of assault and battery on a police officer, one count of resisting arrest and a warrant for possessing a Class A substance, possessing a hypodermic needle and drug

Road resident brought a box of ammunition to the Community Safety Building. The man had been cleaning his cellar when he found the bullets.

Thursday, July 31

• At 3:46 p.m., a Morningside Drive resident told police a man approached her children in front of their house. The man allegedly asked a boy if he lost his ball or wallet. The children ran away.

Police spoke to the man and advised him of the complaint.

paraphernalia, assault and battery on a police officer and resisting arrest. Officers went to Fustolo's residence to serve a warrant. As Officer Michael Hogan tried to make the arrest, the suspect allegedly grabbed Hogan by the neck. Officer James Smith was able to pull off Fustolo and made the arrest.

Sunday, Aug. 3

• At 10:56 a.m., police arrested Laura A. McAuliffe, 18, 120 Milton St., and charged her with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, operating a motor vehicle so to endanger, and being a minor transporting alcohol. Officer Gary Grinnell responded to Endicott Street concerning a motor vehicle accident. While at the scene, the officer could reportedly smell alcohol on McAuliffe, who was the driver of one of the vehicles. Grinnell made the arrest.

Friday, Aug. 1

• At 4:03 p.m., police placed an intoxicated Mill Street resident into protective custody.

Saturday, Aug. 2

• At 8:11 a.m., a Russell Terrace resident reported a stolen motor vehicle. The man called police three hours later and told them a stereo was also missing from his home.

• At 8:58 a.m., a Dorothy Road resident reported vandalism to a motor vehicle. Police found a two-and-a-half-pound weight had been thrown through a window.

Sunday, Aug. 3

• At 6:56 a.m., police received a call from Brattle Street regarding a slashed motor vehicle tire.

FIRE LOG

The Arlington Fire Department responded to 76 calls from July 27-Aug. 2, including 42 with Rescue and 34 investigations. References to paramedics denote two-medical teams from Armstrong Ambulance Service, a private Arlington-based ambulance company. The following are excerpts from the Fire Department log; the information is available to the public.

Sunday, July 27

• At 4:44 a.m., firefighters responded to Cedar Avenue regarding arcing wires in a transformer. When they arrived, flames were shooting one to two feet in the air. Firefighters stood by until Nstar arrived.

Wednesday, July 30

• At 9:11 a.m., the Fire Department received a call regarding smoke in a Massachusetts Avenue residence. Firefighters found the fire was contained to a pot on the stove. They extinguished and ventilated the kitchen.

• At 4:04 p.m., a Massachusetts Avenue resident notified the Fire Department regarding an electrical problem on a pole. Firefighters

waited until Nstar arrived.

Thursday, July 31

• At 4:25 p.m., firefighters responded to a motor vehicle accident at Mystic and Summer streets. One person complained of neck pain. Rescue placed a collar around his neck and put him on a backboard. Rescue with paramedics transported him to Winchester Hospital.

Saturday, Aug. 2

• At 3:36 p.m., Engine 3 responded to a motor vehicle accident on Wachusett Avenue. A 61-year-old woman complained of rib and abdominal pain. Firefighters placed a collar around her neck and put her on a backboard. Rescue transported the patient to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

• At 9:26 p.m., firefighters responded to a three-car motor vehicle accident on Summer Street. One person complained of neck and head pain. Firefighters placed a collar around her neck and put her on a backboard. Rescue transported the patient to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

Volunteers needed for Literacy Council

The Eastern Massachusetts Literacy Council (EMLC) needs volunteers to tutor adults who live or work in Middlesex County. 245 prospective students are waiting to learn to read, write and communicate in English in order to gain job skills, support their families and achieve other important life goals. Student/tutor pairs meet at their local public library or another public space.

Any person from any town interested in learning more is invited to attend an informational orientation session. There will be an orientation session at EMLC's home office at 400 High St., in Medford on Wednesday, Sept. 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. Enter through the rear door of the Congregational Church of West Medford.

A second orientation session will be held on Oct. 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Burlington Public Library located at 22 Sears St., in Burlington.

After the two-hour orientation, volunteers may sign up for a free 15-hour tutor training course. If a prospective volun-

teer cannot attend a scheduled orientation session, an individualized session will be scheduled, and the prospective volunteer may attend the subsequent tutor training course.

After training, volunteers are certified and paired with adult learner in their own communities. The tutor and student negotiate the time and location of tutoring sessions, held once or twice a week. Tutors or students who have disabilities and require special accommodations will receive reasonable accommodations with the assistance of the EMLC office.

More information is available at the EMLC Web site: <http://www.emlc.org>. To pre-register, please contact EMLC at volunteer@emlc.org or 781-395-2374.

EMLC is affiliated with ProLiteracy America (formerly known as Laubach Literacy Action) and funded in part by the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Acton-Boxborough United Way, corporate funding, private foundations and individual donors.

Meetings

Thursday, Aug. 7

• Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

Monday, Aug. 11

• Board of Selectmen meets at 7:15 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, second floor.

Tuesday, Aug. 19

• Permanent Town Building Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

Wednesday, Aug. 20

• Arlington Human Rights Commission meets at 8 p.m. in the Jefferson Cutter House.

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Coyote seen in East Arlington

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Arlington Police are warning residents, especially those near Thorndike Field, that a coyote has been sighted in the area.

Police Lt. John Serson said the department fielded a number of calls last Friday concerning a coyote near Thorndike Field. Serson said residents should watch out for their cats and small dogs.

"If they are indoor pets, people should keep them indoors," said Serson. "Also, keep pet food out of their backyards."

"Coyotes will attack and kill cats and small dogs. People should be aware so they can take the proper precautions," he added.

He also said parents should inform their children to be careful.

"They are probably not going to attack kids, but kids have to understand they are not domesticated animals. They are wild animals and people should stay clear of them," he said.

Serson said the combination of suburban sprawl and trapping bans have meant

more coyotes moving to populated areas.

Coyotes are not the only wild animals that have been seen in town. In addition to the usual sightings of squirrels, raccoons, opossums and skunks, Arlington Police have received recent reports of foxes, deer and wild turkeys.

Neighboring Belmont has also had its problems with coyotes. A number of dead cats have been found in the town, which officials believe were killed by coyotes.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environ-

ment, coyotes first moved to central and western regions of the state in the 1950s and were first spotted in eastern Massachusetts in the 1970s.

Coyotes are often seen alone or in small groups and its range can vary from 4 to 30 square miles, according to the department's Web site.

They are "opportunistic feeders" and usually feast on small rodents, rabbits, deer, birds, frogs and insects, but are also known to eat fruits, berries, vegetables, garbage and pet food left outdoors, according to the Massachusetts Wildlife.

Guarding against coyotes

- Tips to keep coyotes away from your home.
- Secure garbage
 - Don't feed or try to pet coyotes
 - Keep pets safe
 - Keep bird feeder areas clean
 - Feed pets indoors
 - Close off crawl spaces under porches and sheds
 - Don't let coyotes intimidate you; don't hesitate to scare coyotes by making loud noises
 - Cut back brushy edges in yards

Source: Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environment

English conversation classes planned

Free Conversation Classes are available to adults who are learning to speak English.

Participants will improve their English pronunciation and learn more about American culture as they practice speaking skills in a relaxed atmosphere. In order to sign

up, students should be able to understand about 70 percent of the English they hear.

English Conversation Groups will be held in Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Medford, Stoneham, Waltham, Winchester and Woburn at various times.

Groups will begin during

the second week of September, but late registration will be accepted. The schedule is posted at www.emlc.org.

To request a copy of the schedule or to register for a group, contact the Eastern Massachusetts Literacy Council at 781-395-2374 or learn@emlc.org.

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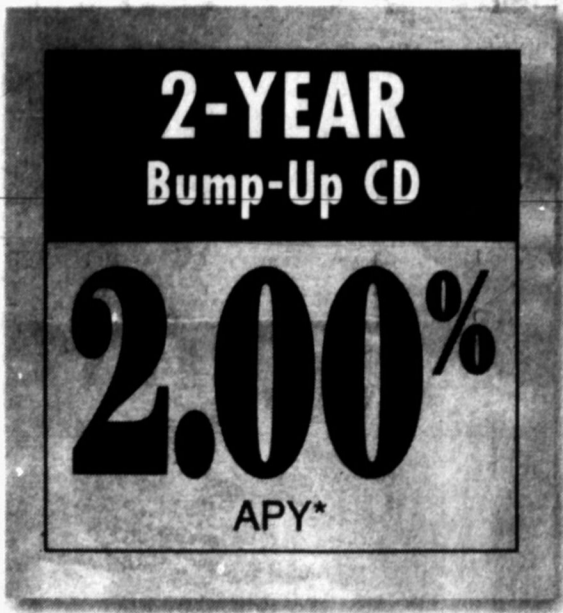
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Robbins Farm users await reopening, watch grass grow

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The first part of the Robbins Farm Park rehab is almost complete. People aching to return to the beautiful view of Boston

and the long slide still have to wait while various small items are finished.

The town has allocated \$473,000 for the rehab project on the Eastern Avenue park. The Friends of Robbins Park also raised \$48,000 to con-

tribute to the cause.

Friends of Robbins Farm Park Trustee Jen Rothenberg said work at the site is not completed, although the issues remaining are relatively minor.

"We have a medium-sized

punch list to go through," said Rothenberg.

Rothenberg stressed the park is still a construction site and is not yet suitable for children.

"I've seen people jump the fence and take their kids into

the playground. You really shouldn't do that. This is a construction site. Most of the equipment has not had a final inspection," said Rothenberg. "The most time-consuming thing is the grass and we need to keep the fence up and keep people off the grass until it grows."

Earlier attempts at hydroseeding did not take, thanks in large part to the wacky weather this year. Crews will get rid of the crab grass that has taken root in the area and hydroseed. That could take a few weeks to take hold, said Rothenberg.

The playground was built entirely by volunteers, said Friends Trustee Jack Rogers. Parents and neighbors gave up several weekends to help replace the aging wood playground with a new metal and plastic version.

"We built it ourselves. The contractor provided two or three guys as technical experts, but the playground itself was a community effort," said Rogers. "The amazing thing was that first day. We had 100 people arrive in shifts to work that day. It

was raining all day and it was in the forties. Only two people didn't show."

The old tennis courts were removed due to poor condition and lack of use, said Rogers.

"We made a conscious decision to make it a quiet place," said Rogers. The court area will now have benches and tables, where people can sit and talk and enjoy the view.

Drainage at the park was also improved as part of the project.

Rothenberg said a date has not yet been set for the park's grand re-opening; she hopes it will happen in the fall.

"We hope to have a date soon," said Rothenberg.

Rothenberg did not have a final estimate on the project's cost. She said any money left over from the private funding would be used to create a maintenance fund for the park.

Park supporters hope work on the ball fields will be in the next phase, but there is no funding at this time.

'The most time-consuming thing is the grass and we need to keep the fence up and keep people off the grass until it grows.'

JEN ROTHENBERG, FRIENDS OF ROBBINS FARM PARK TRUSTEE

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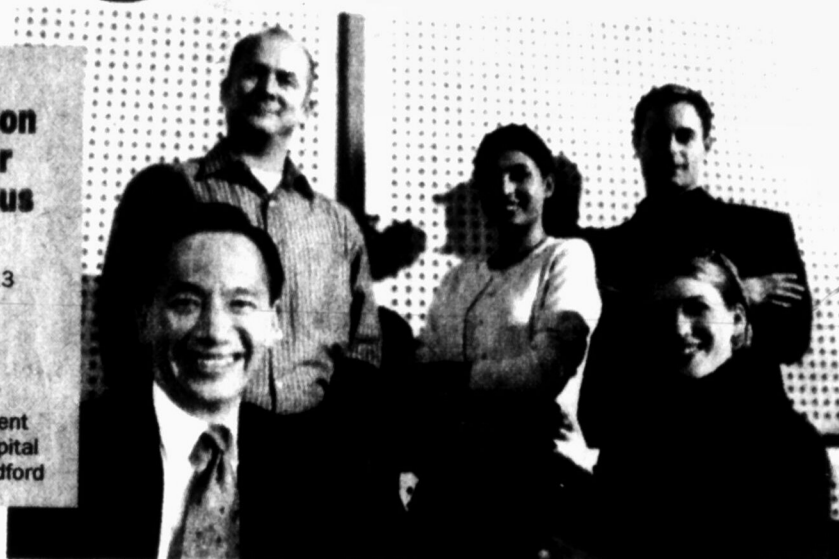
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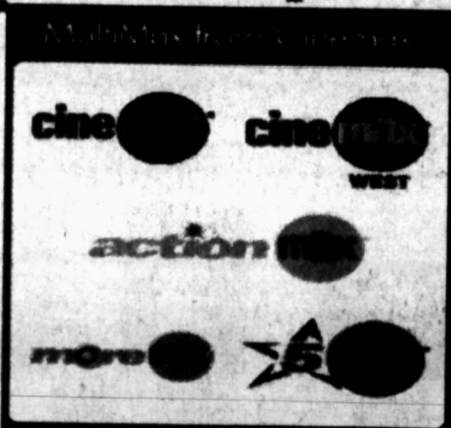
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Selectmen place restrictions on employee Internet use

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Google at your own risk. Arlington town employees will be working under new technology rules after the Board of Selectmen passed an Internet use policy. The rules change come months after an incident involving former Town Manager Phillip Farrington. The policy was adopted by the Board of Selectmen on July 28.

Town Counsel John Maher said a policy overhaul was long overdue.

"We are trying to get our arms around an ever-changing industry," said Maher.

The old policy, written in 1997, covered e-mail use and was largely outdated, said Maher. By updating the policy and including new technologies, the document is better able to control computer and cell phone use by town workers.

"This is expanded to use of the Internet, cell phones, whatever," said Maher.

The new policy builds in conditional approval for incidental personal use. Dropping a quick e-mail is no longer prohibited — provided the employee is on break. According to Maher, keeping light use legal makes acting on large infractions easier.

"It's kind of hard to penalize someone for dashing off an e-mail to a spouse saying 'Pick

up the kids at school because I'm running late,'" said Maher. "If you let some things that are prohibited go and then you enforce others, you run into trouble."

Checking the headlines or catching up with a friend via e-mail can't cut into work hours, however. Such activity is acceptable during breaks and lunch hours only.

"It's more of a reflection of reality," said Maher.

The new policy comes nine months after former Town Manager Phillip Farrington was caught improperly using a town computer. Farrington accepted an early retirement incentive the following month.

According to Maher, the new policy was already being written before the Farrington incident. The former manager's violation of use policy did push the policy forward.

"We had begun to review the old policy and that added a little impetus to it," said Maher.

"It obviously had something to do with the lack of judgment of the town manager and we wanted to make this policy clear to everyone," said Selectmen Charles Lyons.

Lyons said the changes were long overdue.

"With the changes in tech-

'It obviously had something to do with the lack of judgment of the town manager and we wanted to make this policy clear to everyone.'

SELECTMEN CHARLES LYONS

nology, you are not going to be able to police everything," said Lyons. "The more you place responsibility for use, the more you protect the liability of the community and the rights of the employees using the technology."

Maher said the new document will be under almost constant revision as technology improves and new means of communications are introduced to the workplace.

"I think we are going to have to look at this policy yearly if not more frequently," said Maher.

Town employees will have to sign off on the new Internet use policy every year. The policy will be enforced by supervisors in each department.

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Republicans schedule meeting Aug. 13

The Arlington Republican Town Committee will conduct its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St., commencing at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will focus on various business matters and upcoming Town Day activities.

All registered Republicans are invited to attend.

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AHS welcomes freshman

Arlington High School is planning a freshmen orientation event to be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27.

An afternoon session for freshmen students will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. and will consist of questions and

answers, building tours and student photo identifications will be taken.

A question and answer orientation session for parents of freshmen students will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Lowe Auditorium.

All incoming freshmen and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend this new welcoming event.

Partners extend fund-raising drive

The Arlington Partners in Education Foundation fund-raising total hit \$211,000 on July 31, the deadline for this effort.

Given the strong continuing pace of giving, the board decided to extend this fund-raising effort to Aug. 15, to allow another two weeks for donations to be received. The School Committee and school administration are aware of the funds raised to date and are willing to receive additional funds even at this later date.

Arlington residents continue to support the emergency fund-raising for the Arlington Public Schools undertaken by APEF. As of Monday, Aug. 4,

\$232,000 from 700 donors has been received from Arlington families, individuals and businesses.

The continuing Honor Roll of Donors follows:

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Deborah Allinger and David Hill
Carol and Harris Band
Laura and Dylan Bartle
Wes and Becky Blair
Robert Bowler
Carol Burns
Bruce Carroll and Merri Lea Shaw
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Patrice and Mike Smith
The Christopher and Caroline Walters family
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Don Westwater and Kathy Carey
Sara and David Whitford

APEF has accepted gifts from \$5 to \$5,000, matching gifts from employers and gifts of stock. The funds are earmarked to support the priorities of the Arlington schools in the context of the current budget crisis.

To join this Honor Roll in supporting Arlington's public schools, please send your tax-deductible donation, and any applicable employer matching gifts, payable to Arlington Partners in Education Foundation to Jane Culbert, Treasurer, PO Box 80, Arlington, MA 02476.

For more information on APEF, see www.arlington-schoolsfoundation.org.

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Friends raise funds for AHS

The Friends of AHS Committee will be selling agenda books (\$8 each), blank notebooks (\$3 each), and page markers for agenda books (\$1), and will also distribute pre-ordered agenda books on Wednesday, Aug. 27 during freshman student and parent orientation.

The agenda books are helpful tools for organizing and scheduling student assignments. All proceeds benefit classroom requisitions submitted to Friends of AHS, which directly supports the needs of Arlington High School.

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ROBBINS LIBRARY NEWS

Performance tonight

On Thursday, Aug. 7, the Summer Concert Series on the Green at the Robbins Library continues with Kevin McNamara at 6 p.m.

For more than 15 years, children of all ages have been entertained with the lively music and performance of Kevin McNamara.

Playing his guitar, ukulele, harmonica, and drum machine, Kevin leads his audiences through a variety of song — children's songs, standards, rock and roll, folk, and pop music. Inviting his audience to sing and dance, Kevin brings extra maracas for the musicians in the audience to shake.

The rain date is on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

The concerts are free and for the entire family. Come with your picnic basket and relax on the green with great entertainment. The concerts are sponsored by the Russell Trust Fund. All programs are free and open to the public.

Visit the Robbins Library Web site at www.robbinslibrary.com.

Read, dine this summer

The Robbins Library continues its Adult Summer Read-

ing Club for adults 18 years of age and older. The goal of the program is to read or listen to four books by the end of the summer.

The Friends of the Library is sponsoring four raffles to be drawn after Labor Day for \$15 gift certificates to local restaurants. For each book that you read/listen to you may enter your name in the raffle. The more you read the greater your chance to win a gift certificate.

The theme of the adult, children's and young adult summer reading clubs is "Sea Read." The staff hopes to have participants sail home with delightful titles throughout the summer. Here's your chance to broaden your horizons and read that title you've had on your list or just kick back and settle in with some old favorites.

There will also be an opportunity to submit book reviews. Forms will be available at the public service desks (which is optional). Anyone can join the program without participating in the reviewing.

Program registration is at the Reference Desk at the Robbins Library and at the Fox Library.

For more information on any of the libraries' programs, go to www.robbinslibrary.com.



Kevin McNamara will perform on the Robbins Library Green tonight.

Bank event Aug. 16

Citizens Bank's Arlington Center branch, located at 699 Massachusetts Ave., is slated to hold a Customer Appreciation Event on Saturday, Aug. 16 to say thanks to its customers.

Customers and the general public are invited to stop by the branch between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to enjoy:

- Complimentary hotdogs and lemonade;
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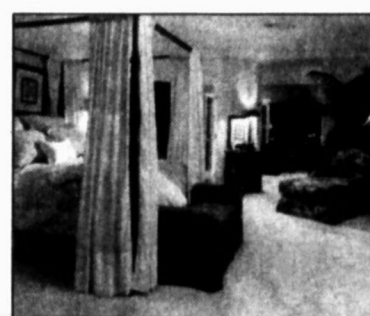
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Willy Wonka at Robbins Farm Friday

Everyone had so much fun last year that the Friends of Robbins Farm Park (FORFP)

presents two more free Friday Night Flicks this summer at Robbins Farm Park.

The free movies will be shown on Friday, Aug. 8, and Friday, Aug. 22. On both nights the movies will start at 7:30 p.m.

On Aug. 8, three short Dr. Seuss animated features, "Green Eggs and Ham," "Ten

Apples On Top," and "The Tooth Book" will begin the evening, followed at 8:15 p.m. by the full-length feature, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

Featured on Aug. 22, sponsored by RCN, will be "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang."

Both events are free; you may want to bring blankets, beach chairs and bug spray.

Rain dates are Aug. 9 and Aug. 23. Signs will be posted in

the park if the event is going to be postponed due to weather.

The Friends of Robbins Farm Park is a community-based, nonprofit organization formed to promote the beautification, restoration and improvement of Robbins Farm Park. It sponsors and promotes cultural, educational, recreational and other community activities throughout the year.

The Friends invite active membership in the organiza-

tion and seek to represent the Robbins Farm Park community.

Further information and membership materials may be found on its Web site at <http://www.robbinsfarm-park.org>.

For more information about the event, you may contact Mike Smith at mjsmith999@aol.com or Helene Newberg at guaitch@yahoo.com.

O'Rourke studies at Tanglewood

Michael O'Rourke participated in this summer's Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), a program of musical study and performance that is recognized internationally as an educational experience for young artists. O'Rourke studied baritone voice performance for two years. A senior at Boston College High School, he is the son of Justin and Alice O'Rourke.

Held on the Tanglewood Music Center's main grounds in Lenox — the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) — BUTI was founded in 1966 and is the only program of its kind associated with one

of the great symphony orchestras of the world. Its faculty members perform in some of the country's most prestigious orchestras, including the BSO, the Atlanta Symphony, the Columbus Symphony, and the Houston Symphony.

O'Rourke is one of approximately 350 students selected from auditions across the country and abroad to work with members of the BSO, BU faculty, and world-renowned visiting artists. While in residence at Tanglewood, these young musicians and singers keep a demanding schedule of rehearsals, practices, master classes, and concerts.

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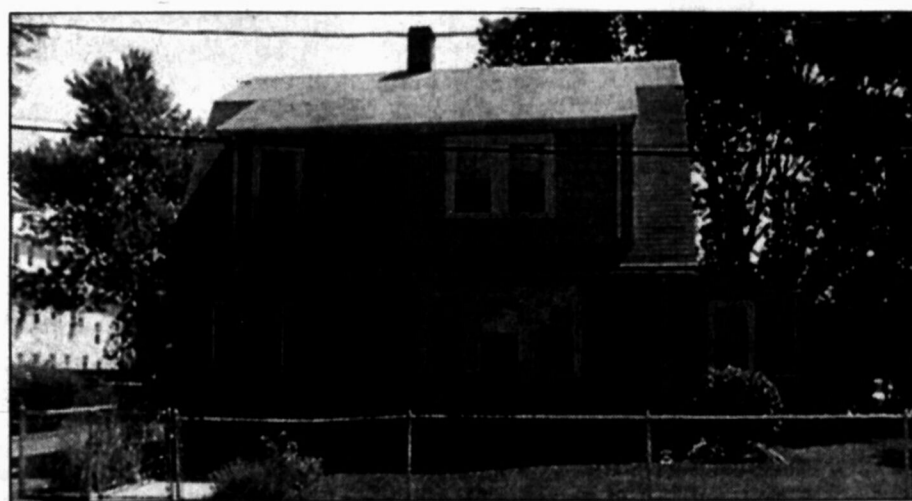
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How is grammar best taught? Grammar is at the same time loathed and admired by many.

For some of us Baby Boomers, the very word conjures up memories of parsing sentences in our seats or working at the blackboard to make elaborately branching sentence diagrams grow before the eyes of our watchful teachers. Dedicated teachers helped me understand that participles should never dangle and that subjects and verbs must, like nations in the United Nations, try to agree.

In recent years, researchers advised English teachers to treat the subject lightly.

"Teach grammar with mini-lessons at the start or end of class," they counseled. "Forget the terminology of grammar. Who really needs to know what a subjunctive clause is?"

"Grammar lessons should be generated by problems evidenced in student writing," cautioned the literacy experts. "Teach grammar in context and avoid using too much precious class time. Prevent the drudgery remembered from past school days."

Thus, students learned how to join ideas, but did not learn that a conjunction or a semicolon was the joiner.

However mysterious and dull grammar can be, grammatical understanding and application of rules allow English speakers and those who wish to progress in other languages, a common set of terms.



Basset hound Alexander will help Arlington High School freshmen learn grammar this year.

Grammar serves clear writing and speaking. If grammar lessons of yore were not fun, we still came to realize that a solid grounding in grammar and usage would save us from social gaffes of confusing common words such as lay and lie, hanged or hung, or worse yet, using malapropisms like irregardless in public.

Computerized grammar and spell checkers are weak substitutes for real understanding. Egregious agreement errors are seen in major newspapers and heard on news channels.

Like a slow rust on our grammatical knowledge, incorrect usage and agreement starts to appear and sound correct over time. Grammatical ignorance is not bliss.

As we articulate our curriculum at every grade level in English Language Arts, it is clear that a solid, enticing foundation in grammar must be a part of mastery learning for every student.

Computerized spelling and grammar checkers are weak substitutes for knowledge. Yet, if grammar boards us, thought Arlington High School English Department teachers, how can we now get our stu-

dents interested?

Enter Alexander the Grammar—a new canine character soon-to-be introduced to all freshmen at Arlington High School this fall. Veteran English teacher Maryanne Orlando-O'Brien led a group of dedicated young teachers to create a grammar workbook which appeals to students.

It introduces a guilty-eyed, adorable basset hound named Alexander, himself a reluctant student of grammar. As students complete the entire workbook, they are guided by the lovable, yet naughty dog.

They will learn to compose varied sentence structures, learn grammatical terminology applied to enjoyable exercises, and catch usage errors.

Paid for by an Academic Support Grant obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Education, this initiative is intended to bolster student success. The Department of Education also helped finance the stipends for the teacher-writers, and it paid for the PVC-bound workbooks printed at nearby Swiftie's. The book features Arlington's school colors, red and gray, and will be distributed to each freshman in September.

Each of the grammar team members, including Russell Coward, Carrie Jewell, Sarah Parsons, and Kevin Richardson, worked on diverse aspects of grammar, such as parts of speech, phrases, clauses, punctuation and sentence variety. Instructional Technologist Elle Callahan assisted with visuals and graphics.

Extensive collaboration outside of school took place as teachers refined and devel-

oped sentences to reinforce each grammatical element. Further editing yielded sentences which educate students about important Arlington cultural landmarks and help introduce many personalities at AHS, such as the friendly secretaries, informative librarians, talented teachers and welcoming administrators.

Alexander is pictured throughout the workbook in a variety of poses. While vainly showing his best side, he asks students to name the Shakespearean plays from which canine quotations originate.

As the book progresses, the dog reveals his favorite film, introduces apostrophes, appositives and parallel structure. The English Department believes he is sure to engage students with his personality.

Moreover, it is a pleasure to teach a book created by colleagues with a healthy dose of humor. As it is taught, teachers will note revisions for a second printing next spring. Ms. Orlando plans to generate excitement about grammar by bringing the real Alexander to school for a few celebrity appearances this fall.

Grasping Grammar, the new AHS Grade 9 skills for effective writing and usage workbook "let the dog out" to help students enhance their grammatical understanding. While grammar may not excite adolescents, all who prize communication know that grammatical mastery empowers speakers and writers to communicate well and appreciate the magnificent beauty of the English language.

Spanish Network seeks help

Since the elementary Spanish program fell victim to the current budget cuts, Arlington Spanish Network has been working on ways to preserve some type of Spanish instruction in the elementary schools.

Before the program was cut, ASN won an AEEF grant for Spanish enrichment for the coming year and its members are currently studying ways to put that grant to best use in the current environment.

People who are interested in helping at their own school or on a town-wide basis, may join the Arlington Spanish

Yahoo group by visiting www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ArlingtonSpanish or sending an e-mail to arlingtonspanishsubscribe@yahoo.com.

ASN currently has active members at each elementary school, Ottonson, and AHS, as well as a couple of well-known local Latin musicians. There is also a growing number of resources on the Yahoo site—including an article on the benefits of early second-language learning.

For more information, join the Yahoo group or send an e-mail to Charlotte Pierce, cpierce@post.harvard.edu.

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Communities United announces Head Start program openings

Communities United, Inc., is accepting applications for September enrollment in its Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

Head Start offers a preschool program to low income families, which runs from late September to early June. There is no charge for the program, which operates Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The center based Early Head Start programs for low income families, in Watertown, Brookline and Newton, are full day, full year programs for children ages 12 months to 2.9 years. There is no charge for Early Head Start. Breakfast and lunch are provided and transportation is available to families who cannot self-transport.

Early Head Start and Head Start are total learning experiences, which promote social, emotional, physical and educational growth. Since parents are the most important educators of their children, they are encouraged to actively participate in all aspects of the program. Children with special needs are welcome. Specialized staff are available to assure that every child's educational needs are met.

Low income families living or working in Arlington who have 3- or 4-year-old children are encouraged to apply for Head Start. More than 270 families are currently involved.

Communities United also has full day child care programs on a sliding fee scale for families of low to moderate income living or working in Arlington. Communities United Inc. also offers a unique program serving pregnant women and homeless children, on site, at family shelters in Waltham and Newton.

Anyone interested in obtaining an application or information about Head Start should call 781-736-7890 or

write to Communities United, Inc., 135 Beaver St., Waltham, MA 02452. Contact people: Kathy Young, Ext. 31, or Eileen

Schwaim, Ext. 26, in the enrollment office.

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HINT: If a 16-year-old were to contribute \$1,000 to a Roth IRA for five years, and made no further contributions, the account would grow to just over \$200,000 by the time the teen was 65, assuming 8% annual growth.

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Peace vigil on Mass. Ave.

The worldwide peace movement has gained momentum to take advantage of shifting public opinion as polls are showing more people feel the Iraq invasion was a mistake and that the occupation could become another Vietnam quagmire, from which we might not escape for years.

This group represents a broad spectrum of the electorate, including some who supported the war several months ago.

Questions have been raised about President George W. Bush during the build-up to the invasion of Iraq, of the discredited claim that Iraq attempted to buy uranium ore from Niger and of faulty intelligence regarding an alleged Iraq-al Qaeda connection.

Building on the efforts of hundreds of thousands of Americans who marched in antiwar rallies weeks before the US-led invasion, coalitions such as United for Jus-

tice with Peace and Win Without War, have been busy galvanizing forces to lobby for an end to the occupation in Iraq, successfully overturn some provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, and seriously challenge a recent FCC ruling that would open the door to further consolidation of US media ownership.

To celebrate these victories, promote solidarity, and help focus public attention, a number of organizations affiliated with United for Justice with Peace, including community groups from Arlington, Cambridge, Dorchester, Lexington, Medford, Somerville, Watertown, and Winchester, will be asking friends and neighbors to join them at a Community Peace and Justice Vigil, on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

People will be gathering at the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Route 16, on the Arlington/Cambridge border, and at the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Columbus Avenue in Roxbury.

Participants will be carrying signs reflecting simplified statements on complex, critical issues including: End the Occupation of Iraq; US out — UN in; Money for Jobs, Education, Healthcare, Communities, and the Environment — NOT War; Bring Our Troops Home; and No to the USA PATRIOT Act.

Members of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship will be conducting a silent walking meditation, starting at the Davis Square T-stop, at 9:45 a.m. and joining up with the Route 16 vigil, before noon.

These vigils will also mourn the US' dropping of an atomic bomb on Japan in 1945.

Submitted by Arlington United for Justice with Peace.

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